

REMARKS

Office Action is discussed in detail below. Paragraph numbers correspond to the paragraph numbers of the Office Action.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikoma et al (U.S. Pat. 5,077,149) in view of Bougauchi et al (Abstract Japanese Patent 02244555).

Applicant's independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1. An active composition for a positive electrode of an alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - a nickel hydroxide material; and
 - a binder comprising a molasses.

7. A positive electrode for an alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - an active composition including:
 - a nickel hydroxide material; and
 - a binder comprising a molasses.

13. An alkaline electrochemical cell, comprising:
 - at least one positive electrode;
 - at least one negative electrode; and
 - an alkaline electrolyte,said positive electrode having an active material composition including a nickel hydroxide material and a binder comprising a molasses.

Ikoma and Bougauchi provide no teaching or suggestion of using molasses as a binder. As a result of the amendments, the rejection is overcome and applicant requests it be removed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges that claims 5, 11 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 15 are in condition for allowance and applicant requests removal of the outstanding objection and rejections and notification of allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions regarding the prosecution of this application, he is asked to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Schlazer

Philip H. Schlazer

Reg. No. 42,127

Date: July 9, 2004
Energy Conversion Devices, Inc.
2956 Waterview Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
Phone: (248) 293-0440 extension 6260
Fax: (248) 844-2273